

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCCT-01 PPT-01 SCA-01 VO-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 EA-06 EUR-08 SY-02 L-01 /048 W

----- 075053

R 101345Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2689

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1284

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, JA,MY

SUBJECT: PASSPORTS STOLEN BY JRA TERRORISTS DURING

KUALA LUMPUR ATTACK

1. LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SENT FOLLOWING NOTE TO THE
JAPANESE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI ON NOV 6:

BEGIN QUOTE. MINISTRY IS HONORED TO INFORM THE
EMBASSY THAT THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF
INTERIOR HAS SENT A LETTER TO MFA CONCERNING ITS
INQUIRY INTO THE OBTAINING OF AMERICAN PASSPORTS BY
THE JAPANESE RED ARMY GROUP DURING THE OCCUPATION OF
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR. RED ARMY GROUP
HAS DENIED THIS, AND A SEARCH HAS NOT UNCOVERED ANY
PASSPORTS. END QUOTE.

2. SINCE THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR HAD NOT MADE ANY OFFICIAL
INQUIRY INTO THE MATTER OF THE PASSPORTS STOLEN BY THE
TEN JRA TERRORISTS FROM EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR, HE IS
PUZZLED AS TO WHY HE WAS SENT A NOTE ON THE SUBJECT.
IN FACT, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE LIBYAN NOTE IS MEANT TO BE
AND ANSWER TO OUR NOTE OF SEPT 11 ASKING ABOUT THE STOLEN
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PASSPORTS, BUT THAT FOR REASONS BEST KNOWN TO THEM THE

LIBYANS HAVE PREFERRED TO ANSWER TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY. SWEDISH EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI, IT WILL BE RECALLED (TRIPOLI 1037), ALSO SENT THE LIBYANS A NOTE ASKING FOR THE RETURN OF ANY PASSPORTS STOLEN FROM THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR "WITHOUT DELAY". THE LIBYANS HAVE SO FAR IGNORED THIS REQUEST.

3. COMMENT: THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE ONLY FOUR POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE STOLEN PASSPORTS, INCLUDING 17 BLANKS: A(A) TERRORISTS WERE ABLE TO DISPOSE OF THE PASSPORTS BEFORE BOARDING JAL PLANE IN KUALA LUMPUR, (B) TERRORISTS SOMEHOW DISPOSED OF PASSPORTS DURING THE FLIGHT, (C) JRA TERRORISTS HAVE KEPT THE PASSPORTS AND MANAGED TO CONCEAL THEM FROM THEIR LIBYAN GUARDS, OR (D) LIBYAN GOVT IS NOT TELLING THE TRUTH. WE WOULD NOT DISCOUNT THE FOURTH POSSIBILITY.

4. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SAYS THAT BEFORE HE LEFT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO TOKYO (TOKYO 15619), MINISTRY OF INTERIOR UNDER-SECRETARY BELGASEM REPEATED HIS ASSURANCES THAT THE TEN JRA TERRORISTS WERE BEING KEPT IN CUSTODY IN LIBYA. JAPANESE HOPE THAT AFTER BELGASEM'S TRIP, WHICH HAD THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING JAPANESE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE LIBYAN POLICE, LIBYANS WILL UNDERSTAND THE DANGER REPRESENTED BY THE JRA TERRORISTS BETTER, AND WILL BE LESS INCLINED TO RELEASE THEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PASSPORT FRAUD, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TRIPOL01284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750390-0682
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751160/aaaaccji.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PASSPORTS STOLEN BY JRA TERRORISTS DURING KUALA LUMPUR ATTACK
TAGS: PINS, JA, MY, JRA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006